

## University of Groningen

### The 'other' side of compassion

Meerholz, Ernst Willem

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1. Compassion for an individual or group that was harmed by us or a group we belong to can not only evoke an increase, but also a decrease of self-critical emotions, feelings of responsibility and a desire to help (*this thesis*)
2. The effects of compassion in identity-threatening situations are dependent on the extent to which we identify with our group or past self (*this thesis*)
3. Compassion's strong other-focus can pave the way toward selfless helping, but also be a convenient way to look past (and put in the past) our own harmful behavior (*this thesis*)
4. The identification-dependent effects of compassion apply to both intergroup and interpersonal situations (*this thesis*)
5. Compassion, as we define it, differs from empathy in that it does not involve taking the perspective of another person or group and is more exclusively other-focused (*this thesis*)
6. To understand the function and predict the effects of emotions in interpersonal and intergroup contexts, underlying motivational factors and identity concerns need to be taken into account (*this thesis*)